#### WEEKLY REPORT

Region 9
Environmental Protection Agency
Week of October 14, 2016
Superfund Division

## **Highlight of Past Week**

**Lead Smelter USA Today FOIA and IG Report Response:** OSRTI is responding to a FOIA request from USA today about the status of 464 former smelter sites that may have contributed to elevated lead in soil. Region 9 has approximately 41 sites on the list, all of which have been assessed by the Site Assessment Team in 2013 or earlier. **Enforcement 7 (A)** 

## Enforcement 7 (A)

Solar Reserve Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Facility Dedication (Tonopah, NV): Mindy Clements represented EPA at a dedication event at the Crescent Dunes solar energy facility in Tonopah, NV on October 11. The 110 Megawatt solar plant delivers enough electricity from solar energy to power 75,000 homes during peak demand periods, day and night, whether or not the sun is shining. Solar potential maps funded under EPA's Brownfields to Brightfields program helped determine the location for construction of the facility. The project will expend more than \$10 million per year in salaries and operating costs, much of this spent in the region, and it is forecasted to generate more than \$73 million in local and state tax revenues over first 20 years of operation. The project resulted in 4,300 direct, indirect and induced jobs and 60% of subcontractors were Nevada based. The same company is looking to site another project potentially in Nye County that will be \$5 billion and generate between 1500 to 2000 megawatts, enough to power 1 million homes. Speakers at the event included Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall and U.S. Senator Dean Heller. (Contact: Mindy Clements, x2-3169)





Anaconda Copper Mine Site, Yerington, NV: Members of the EPA site team are in Nevada this week conducting tribal consultation meetings on the addition of the Anaconda Copper Mine Site to the NPL. Yesterday, the team met with the Walker River Paiute Tribe's council members and environmental office to enter into formal consultation. Tonight (October 12) the team will attend a Yerington Paiute Tribe council meeting to consult on the NPL listing. Both tribes support listing to the NPL. (Contact: Sarah Cafasso, x2-3076)

**Triple Site (Sunnyvale, CA):** Last week's door-to-door outreach event in the step-out indoor air sampling area in the Duane/San Miguel Avenue neighborhood went smoothly. EPA's outreach team included Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese-speaking staff to share information with this diverse multi-lingual community. In parallel to the outreach event, we sent out another mailer to over 1,500 households with our latest fact sheet and access agreement. Owners have been sending in signed access agreements and we are scheduling air testing appointments. Our total number of households tested is now at 170 (out of around 400 total within the investigation area). Mitigation was completed last week at one additional two-story apartment building, which brings the total number of residential buildings with mitigation systems to eight (comprising 25 households). Four school mitigation installations are in progress Deliberative Process (b) (5)

(Contact: Melanie Morash, x2-3050 or Alejandro Diaz, x2-3242)

**Leviathan Mine:** On August 29, EPA met with Atlantic Richfield to discuss management of downed timber in advance of the rain/snow season. Atlantic Richfield agreed to do the removal of small debris located on the shoreline by hand. However, on September 16, the Forest Service agreed to do the work. USFD has since completed the work. Last year's winter contingency planning and monitoring remain in effect for the 2016-2017 winter season. EPA is working with Atlantic Richfield to develop a plan to return flows to Leviathan Creek. (Contact: Lynda Deschambaut, x7-4183 or Gary Riley, x2-3003)

Anaconda: The site team traveled to the Walker River Paiute Tribe in Schurz, NV, and conducted a consultation regarding the proposed listing of the site on the National Priorities List. The tribe had previously issued a resolution in support of listing the site and continues to support it. The team consisted of RPM Dante Rodriguez, CIC Sarah Cafasso, Section Chief Harry Ball, and Assistant Director Angeles Herrera. Deliberative Process (b) (5)

**Fruitland Mg Fire, Maywood, CA:** OSC Musante has begun community outreach surrounding the fire and scrap yard site with the help of Community Involvement staff. Some supplies and equipment will be staged at the Site this week. **Deliberative Process (b) (5)** (October 17). (Contact: Musante, 213-479-2120)

**Julian Chemicals, Julian, CA:** OSCs Benson and Waldon completed the removal of abandoned chemicals from a private residence in San Diego County. The EPA team was assisted by the Salk Institute as some of the wastes originally came from their campus and brought to the home by a former employee. (Contact: Benson, 562-889-7630)

## **Significant Items for Next Week**

Meetings with Navajo Council, President Begaye, and other agencies: Deliberative Process (b) (5)

(Contact: Chip Poalinelli, x2-3390, or Linda Reeves, x2-3445)

Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Programs: On October 14, we will host a field trip in Ambrosia Lake for students at Navajo Technical University and University of New Mexico. EPA Region 9 and 6, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, and Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Program will provide the tour. The objective is to provide the historical background of uranium contamination, visit an abandoned uranium mine, learn about the cleanup process, and provide a unique training opportunity to learn about radiation equipment. The aim is to further inform and engage students of uranium contamination issues and provide details to interested students of necessary steps for a career path with this work. (Contact: Elena Neibaur, x

**National Incident Management Assistance Team:** Calanog, Johnstone and Harris-Bishop will travel to Winchester VA October 17-21 for the initial training of EPA's N-IMAT. (Contact: Jeremy Johnstone, x2-3499)

Emergency Support Function-10 (ESF10) brief to the USCG Pacific Strike Team (PST) in Novato, California: Richman, Weden and Moxley, executed a half day brief to the PST at the USCG Strike team's facility in Novato, California on coordination with FEMA under our national response framework role as ESF10 – oil and hazardous materials – in emergency response. Cmdr. David J. Reinhard, the commanding officer of the Pacific Strike Team, as well as approximately fifteen PST personnel were in attendance. Among other items, we discussed EPA/USCG jurisdiction and statutory authorities and how those inform our response to a declared incident under the Stafford Act. (Contact: Lance Richman, x2-3022)

**Training our Partners**: OSCs Rogow and Wise will conduct mercury response training in four AZ cities next week. The training will include ADEQ response personnel as well as City and County responders. OSCs Zuroski and Weden will participate in CA State-wide oil spill response training in Fresno.

Press Stories, Significant Policy, Regulatory, or Legal Actions (2-3 weeks out)

## **Grant Announcements**

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement awarded: Last week we awarded a competitive cooperative agreement to Asian Health Services (Oakland, CA), who is receiving \$120,000 for two years to address reducing chemical workplace exposures impacting local nail salon workers who are disproportionately exposed to carcinogenic and reproductively harmful chemicals. The project will establish cross-sector partnerships with organizations and county departments to conduct tailored training for nail salon workers/owners about key "Healthy Nail Salon" concepts, related to chemical exposure reduction and proper hazardous waste disposal methods, and about the Healthy Nail Salon low-income loan program to allow the Nail Salon to improve their operating environment and become "Healthy Nail Salon." (Contact: Kim Hoang, x2-3147)

#### **Legislative Engagement**

Travel, Training, Public/National Meetings, and Speaking Engagements

#### 30-60 Day Outlook

# **Other Information**

Division Director Schedule: Internal Personnel (b) (2)

**Internal to Region 9** 

**Confidential Information**